



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

 **PARKLAND**
T H E A T R E



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Charles Dickens

Adapted by Nick Schneider

Original Music by Tim Schirmer

Original Song Lyrics by Seamus Reilly and Cheri Coons

Director
J.W. Morrisette

Musical Director
Tim Schirmer

Technical Director
David G. Dillman

Scenic Designer
Lee M. Boyer

Costume Designer
Barbara T. Schoenoff

Lighting Designer
Sean Murphy

Sound Designer
Jon Schoenoff

Technical Production
Supervisor and
Design Coordinator
Thomas V. Korder

Hair and
Makeup Designer
Rene Chadwick

December 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21 at 7pm and December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21 at 2pm —2008

Produced by the Parkland College Fine and Applied Arts Department and Bah Humbug Productions

Contributing sponsors: The News-Gazette, WDWS/WHMS

Act One

Prologue

Song: Christmastide (Reilly/Schirmer)

The Cast

Marley's Ghost

Scene One: The Funeral of Jacob Marley, Seven Years Before the Present

Ebenezer Scrooge, an old man

Drummer

James, undertaker's assistant

Coffin Carrier #1 and #2

Scene Two: Office of Scrooge and Marley, Present

Ebenezer Scrooge

Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's clerk

Tiny Tim, Bob's youngest son

Fred, Scrooge's nephew

Carolers

Scene Three: Streets of London, Early Evening

Bob Cratchit

Tiny Tim

Mr. Gadbury, Mr. Fitzhugh, and Mr. Kirchmer, brokers

Ebenezer Scrooge

Mrs. Dilber, a laundress

Caroline Malloy, a seamstress

George Malloy, her son

Mr. Bostwick and Mr. Coatsworth, solicitors

Scene Four: Scrooge's House, Early Evening

Mrs. Smythe, caretaker to Scrooge

Ebenezer Scrooge

Jacob Marley, Scrooge's former partner

The First of the Three Spirits

The Ghost of Christmas Past, an androgynous spirit

Ebenezer Scrooge

Scene Five: A Schoolroom, Sometime in the Past

The Ghost of Christmas Past

Ebenezer Scrooge

Young Scrooge, at age 11

Fan, Scrooge's sister

Schoolchildren

Jeremy Scrooge, Ebenezer's father

Scene Six: Fezziwig's Warehouse, Christmas Eve, Sometime in the Past

The Ghost of Christmas Past

Ebenezer Scrooge

Mr. Fezziwig, a jovial distributor

Mrs. Fezziwig, his jovial wife

Young Scrooge, at age 20

Dick Wilkins, his colleague

Rose and Sarah, employees of Fezziwig

Fezziwig Employees and Partygoers

The Fezziwig daughters: Belle, Anne, Jane

Song: Tomorrow's Christmas Day (Coons /Schirmer)

Scene Seven: A Park, Sometime in the Past

Young Scrooge

Belle

Belle's Husband

The Ghost of Christmas Past

Ebenezer Scrooge

Scene Eight: Scrooge's House, The Present

The Ghost of Christmas Past

Ebenezer Scrooge

Act Two

The Second of the Three Spirits

Scene One: Scrooge's House, The Present

Ebenezer Scrooge

The Ghost of Christmas Present, a boisterous spirit

Scene Two: Streets of London, The Present

The Ghost of Christmas Present

Ebenezer Scrooge

Amos, citizen

Elizabeth, citizen, wife to Amos

Reveller #1, #2, and #3, street people

Scene Three: Cratchit Home, The Present

The Ghost of Christmas Present

Ebenezer Scrooge

The Cratchit Family

Mrs. Cratchit, Bob's wife

Peter, his oldest son

Belinda, daughter

Melinda, daughter

Little Bob, son

Martha, eldest daughter

Bob Cratchit

Tiny Tim

Song: Lost Child (Reilly/Schirmer)

Scene Four: Fred's Home, The Present

Fred, Scrooge's nephew

Nelly, Fred's wife

Topper, friend of Fred

Charlotte, Fred's sister in law

William, friend of Fred

Beatrice, William's wife

The Ghost of Christmas Present

Ebenezer Scrooge

Song: Tell Me What I'm Thinking (Reilly/Schirmer)

Scene Five: Somewhere in Town, The Present

The Ghost of Christmas Present

Ebenezer Scrooge

Ignorance, a male child

Want, a female child

The Last of the Spirits

Scene Six: Cratchit Home, Sometime in the Future

The Ghost of Christmas Future, a mysterious spirit

Ebenezer Scrooge

The Cratchit Family

Scene Seven: Market Street, Sometime in the Future

Mrs. Smythe, caretaker to Scrooge

Mrs. Dilber, a laundress

Old Joe, a pawnbroker

James, undertaker's assistant

Mr. Gadbury, Mr. Fitzhugh, and Mr. Kirchner, brokers

Richard Malloy, indebted to Scrooge

Caroline Malloy, his wife

George Malloy, their son

Merchant #1 and #2, shop owners

Londoners

The Ghost of Christmas Future

Ebenezer Scrooge

Scene Eight: A Graveyard, Sometime in the Future

The Ghost of Christmas Future

Ebenezer Scrooge

The End of It

Scene Nine: Scrooge's House, The Present

Ebenezer Scrooge

Scene Ten: Streets of London, Christmas Day

Messenger Boy, a boy

Poulterer, a shopkeeper

The Cratchit Family

Fred and Friends

Londoners

Ebenezer Scrooge

Song: Christmastide - Reprise (Reilly/Schirmer)

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Writer/Producer Notes

Putting *A Christmas Carol* on the Parkland College Stage: The Second Year

Over the past year, I reflected upon our 1st Annual Production of *A Christmas Carol* and reviewed all of the pluses and minuses in preparation for the 2008 production. There were notes from staff and audience members, my own recollections of both on and off stage experiences and, for the first time, I watched the play using a digital recording of the production. There are, of course, improvements that can and will be made both to script and production values; you'll see some of them this year and some in years to come. In general, though, it's a production of which we can all be proud. This is a far cry from the productions my sister Suzanne and I staged in our living room in Detroit or the magic shows and neighborhood carnivals we put up in our garage or backyard. There's no "see the invisible man" sideshow for a penny or nickel; those days have long passed except for the wonderful memories that swell my heart as I recall them.

These same emotions now strike me as we prepare for another presentation of this story of Christmastime. No, it's not a Nativity pageant for sure and carries no overt religious message, but I believe that it touches us in ways most practical and reminds us of what the spirit of the season really represents. Dickens was commenting on 19th-century British society but he was prescient in many ways and, in this adaptation, I have tried to pass the message on as he intended. Scrooge notes to his nephew, "What is Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money, a time for finding yourself a year older but not an hour richer." Later, in our script, Scrooge expresses his take on the season to a shopkeeper he has loaned money to, stating, "Christmas seems to be nothing more than a convenient time to dodge one's indebtedness in the name of good will and cheer." Poignantly modern observations, it seems to me.

As I noted last year, there's an amazing relevance within this story as originally penned by Dickens to today's society just as it was more than 150 years ago. Then, just as now, Scrooge's, and society's, ghosts are still with us: cultural, economical, and political. It is said that history has a way of repeating itself and, after almost 70 years of life, I believe it so. Unfortunately, I also believe that we pay little attention to that adage. But beyond the messages contained within the story, there is value in experiencing the telling of that story, and I and my colleagues hope that you'll come away from this production with a smile and warm feelings for all of those in your life.

This production is the sum total of the work of so many talented people. My primary collaborator, Parkland College's Director of Music Tim Schirmer, has written a wonderfully era-correct musical score. Tim previously composed music for another Dickens' Christmas story, *The Cricket on the Hearth*, and his music for our version of *Carol*, along with lyrics by former Parkland College Fine and Applied Arts Department Chair Seamus Reilly, and former lyrics partner Cheri Coons, lifts this telling of the story in an incomparable way. The production staff in every department has put their professional imprint on the stage even though constrained by matters of space, time and budget. Last year's and this year's cast are remarkable in that for many this is their first foray into a stage production of this scope; I am honored and proud to be among them in the cast.

A Christmas Carol is a story of family relationships, needs, and desires. I truly hope that you come away from our telling of the story as enriched in the Spirit of Christmas as I have been enriched by the process of researching and adapting it. Merry Christmas!

— Nick Schneider, Writer-Producer





Director's Notes

Try having a short conversation with almost anybody about *A Christmas Carol* and you have potential for learning some incredibly fascinating things. You usually discuss the first time you became aware of the story or what actor you think really created the perfect portrayal of Scrooge. People often begin to relive memories from holidays past and openly share where those memories connect to *A Christmas Carol*. Have enough of these short conversations and time and time again the theme of "tradition" takes center stage in the discussion. Many of us have a tradition of watching our favorite film version; some have a tradition of reading excerpts from the novel aloud; and for many the tradition of seeing *A Christmas Carol* performed on stage completes the holiday season.

What is it in Charles Dickens' "ghostly little book" (as he described it) that so captures our feelings, hopes, and sentiments about this magical time of year? What has woven the characters of Scrooge, Cratchit, and Tiny Tim (to name just a few) throughout the very fabric of this season? Perhaps it stems from our sense of tradition, or from our own need for tradition so frequently felt at this time of year. With over 75 film treatments, stage adaptations numbering in the thousands, and 164 years of printing, Dickens' story has shaped our very definition of a traditional holiday season.

Written at a time in England's history when traditional Christmas celebrations were beginning to disappear, the story managed to revitalize interest in the customary revels of the holiday. Within only the first week of publishing in December of 1843, *A Christmas Carol* sold over 6,000 copies. Such popularity obviously comes from Dickens' innate ability to tell an amazing story with such recognizable people. *A Christmas Carol* borrowed heavily from his own life experiences. The theme of the young boy abandoned to his apprenticeship, the record of the lives of the poverty stricken, even Camden town where the Cratchits reside all come to us directly from Dickens' firsthand knowledge in his early life.

At the core of the story stands Dickens' concept of an old skinflint who, despite his best efforts, does not lie beyond the earthly (and unearthly) influences of charitable kindness. Scrooge exemplifies the person who has turned his back on Christmas tradition. His "Bah Humbugs!" echo as a rallying cry for all those wanting to avoid the traditional holiday merriment. Dickens' leaves very little for us to like about such an uncaring and miserly man. And yet he is redeemed: his eyes are opened to the wonder of the season; he is not only seen as worthy of saving but is saved. Who among us wouldn't want to believe that, if such a man as Scrooge can be shown the power and magic of the Christmas season, our own lives might include a happy embrace of that same tradition?

This second annual production of *A Christmas Carol* offers another addition to the rich history of this tale. We have brought to the stage a celebration of the season that might inspire, educate, entertain, and surprise you. To use Dickens' own words, "we have endeavored to raise the Ghost of an Idea," and we hope that it will become part of your own holiday traditions for years to come. Merry Christmas.

— J.W. Morrisette, Director

"But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round — apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that — as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys."

-Nephew Fred from A Christmas Carol



THE PLAYERS

Dominique Allen (*Tiny Tim, Ghost of Christmas Past*)

This is Dominique's fourth play and second time around for *A Christmas Carol*. She really enjoys this play because it is close to the holidays and the cast feels like family to her. A special thanks to her parents and sister Katherine for all their support. Enjoy the show and God bless us EVERYONE!

Jaise Allen (*William, Young Scrooge, Merchant #1*)

Jaise is excited to finally be involved in theatre at Parkland. His past roles include Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*, The Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, all with CUTC. He is attending Parkland College and would like to send love to his family and BIG HUGS to his princess. Merry Christmas!

Kelly Barbour-Conerty (*Mrs. Smythe, Londoner*)

Kelly is so excited to be a part of the *A Christmas Carol* family again. She was Mrs. Cratchit last year. She wants to send a big thank you and lots of love to Chris and Stasia, and of course Lexi! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Rachael Berner (*Fan, Londoner*)

Rachael is 11 years old from Danville, IL. She is in 5th grade at St. Paul's School. She has appeared with the Red Mask Theatre in five plays including *Doctor Dolittle* and *Puss 'n Boots*.

Richie Berner (*Teen Scrooge, James*)

Richie is 13 years old and goes to St. Paul's School in Danville. His previous work includes seven plays at Red Mask Theatre and Danville Light Opera.

Dide Su Bilgin (*Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe, Londoner*)

Dide Su is 12 years old (born in Budapest, Hungary), and she attends Urbana Middle School as a 7th grader. She originally comes from Turkey where she played Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* and appeared on international TV. She has also been in *Fiddler on the Roof* as Avram. Dide Su plays clarinet and piano. She loves acting as well as improvisation. *A Christmas Carol* marks her first play at Parkland Theatre. Dide Su is pleased with her role as an Irregular and hopes to be in another play at Parkland.

Mahalia Booth-Hodges (*Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe, Londoner*)

Mahalia is in the 5th grade at Leal School in Urbana. This is her second appearance on the Parkland Theatre stage. She lost a tooth on stage during her performance in *Once on this Island* five years ago. Besides theatre she enjoys playing cello with Bow-dacious String Band and All-City Strings and clarinet with All-City Band in Urbana.

Kami Butsch (*Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe, Londoner*)

Kami is 10 years old and in the 4th grade in Mahomet School. She lives in Dewey with her Dad, Mom, older brother and younger sister. She loves reading, doing crafts, and having fun with her friends. This is her first real theater experience. She has had a great time and looks forward to performing in the future. She wants to thank her Dad and Mom for letting her try out and for taking her to all the practices.

Brian Chaille (*Mr. Fitzhugh, Ghost of Christmas Present*)

Brian is really looking forward to this year's incarnation as Christmas Present and other "friends" of Scrooge. He can relate to Present because he haunts the theater only around Christmas time, unlike the semi-professionals that make up most of the cast. So, once a year he puts in his appearance; otherwise, he may be found adding funny voices to something we are reading as a family, or perhaps portraying the odd Biblical character. He guesses being a part of *A Christmas Carol* really is a "spiritual" experience. At least this annual foray from engineering into acting forces him to ponder Christmas and relearn that Grace has teeth and redemption really is a terrifying journey if we have the courage to be honest.

Quinten Crook (*Drummer, George Malloy, Little Bob*)

Quinten is excited to be back in *A Christmas Carol* this year. He is looking forward to his return as Little Bob. He also wishes his fellow cast members best wishes in the new year.

Christiaan Feugen (*Ignorance, Londoner*)

Christiaan has appeared in several Champaign-area dance recitals, with both Christine Rich Studios and Art in Motion, with his most recent portrayal being Aldolpho from *The Drowsy Chaperone* with the AIM Studio dance competition team. Christiaan's acting credits include being a newspaper boy in *Miracle on 34th Street* with Bright Lights Theater Company in 2007 and the playing the part of Dan in Country Theatre Workshop's *Cheaper By the Dozen* in the spring of 2008.

Madelyn Gunn (*Martha Cratchit*)

Madelyn is in 8th grade at Countryside School. She's excited to be at Parkland performing in *A Christmas Carol* for a second time. She performed in school plays and a production of *Annie*. Recently this year, she got a chance to perform a non-speaking, non-singing role in *Showboat* at Carnegie Hall! She hopes you enjoy the show!

Kristin Hadler (*Nelly, Londoner*)

Kristin is enjoying her first year as a Parkland theatre major. She was involved in many shows at her high school including *Annie*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*. She would like to thank J.W. for giving her the

chance to be on the Parkland stage for the first time and Tim for helping her be an alto.

Keith Hays (*Jeremy Scrooge, Reveler #2, Old Joe*)

Back from last year's original production, Keith again appears as Scrooge's father and Old Joe the pawnbroker. He has recently appeared in *Oliver!*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, and played Mr. Gilmer in Parkland Theatre's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He is grateful to Mr. Dickens for the story and to Nick and J.W. for the opportunity to help create an enduring holiday tradition!

Kevin Hodge (*Peter Cratchit, Messenger Boy*)

A Christmas Carol is 13-year-old Kevin's 19th play. This is his 2nd production at Parkland. Kevin would like to thank his mother for driving him and his friends to rehearsals. Besides drama, Kevin enjoys spending time with his awesome voice teacher and his spectacular theatre camp friends. Kevin would like to thank all these people for helping him develop into a devoted thespian.

Herrah Zainab Hussain (*Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe, Londoner*)

Herrah is in 8th grade at Mahomet-Seymour Junior High. She enjoys reading, writing, and spending time with her friends and family.

Matthew "Hutch" Hutjens (*Coffin Carrier #1, Dick Wilkins, Ghost of Christmas Future*)

This is Hutch's first play here at Parkland. He is truly happy and thankful to be part of such a great cast. Hutch would like to give special thanks to Kari, Rylee, his parents, and the McDaniels for all their support.

Anna Kanfer (*Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe, Londoner*)

Anna is excited to be a part of *A Christmas Carol*. This is her first year participating in a Parkland production but has loved theatre for years. Recent roles include Lucy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* with Countryside School and chorus member in *Bye Bye Birdie* with CUTC.

Lauren Kordik (*Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe, Londoner*)

Lauren is a 6th grader at Holy Cross Elementary School. This is her first production at Parkland Theatre. She previously was the Wicked Witch/Miss Gulch in *The Wizard of Oz*, Carolee Cow in *The Friendly Beasts*, and a member of the *Godspell* troupe in the Community Arts Camp production co-directed by Angela Schneider. Lauren plays the saxophone, drums, and piano, and plays on her school's basketball and volleyball teams.

Katherine Lamb (*Belle Fezziwig, Londoner*)

Katherine grew up in Urbana and attended New York University. She is pleased to be returning to *A Christmas Carol* for a second year. Earlier this year at Parkland, she played Myrtle Mae in *Harvey*. Thanks to the cast and crew for a wonderful experience. And much love to Nanna for persevering.

Casey Long* (*Coffin Carrier #2, Mr. Bostwick, Richard*)

This is Casey's fourth performance at Parkland. Previous roles include Edgar Hollister in *The Murder Room*, Michal in *The Pillowman*, and Dr. Chumley in *Harvey*. Casey is honored to be part of this great cast and owes all of his thanks to J.W. Also, thanks to Curtis Orchard for the donuts!

Lauren Longfellow (*Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe, Londoner*)

Lauren is a 7th grader at Mahomet-Seymour Junior High. She enjoys playing soccer and singing in her free time. This is Lauren's first Parkland production.

Leighton Luksander (*Coatsworth, Reveler #1, Merchant #2*)

Leighton is a second-year music major at Parkland. He has been involved in theatre for six years since his sophomore year of high school. He has appeared in such shows as *Guys and Dolls* with ARTCo in Tuscola and as Cogsworth in ARTCo's *Beauty and the Beast*. More recently he played the role of Lenny Gantz in *Rumors* hosted by Mahomet-Seymour High School. He is hoping to pursue a degree in music composition, and is also much looking forward to Christmas.

Brad Mehrtens (*Fred/Mr. Fezziwig*)

Although it seems strange to begin a rehearsal process by singing Christmas carols before Halloween, there's no place else Brad would rather be this holiday season. Renewing old friendships, beginning new ones, and perhaps being part of a family's tradition for years to come...it doesn't get better than that. With a background in biology, Brad has an appreciation for most organisms, but is particularly fascinated with the species *Aepyceros melampus* (well, one of them anyway), and has no interest in hyenas. He also harbors a deep-seeded resentment towards marketing coordinators. That's right, you heard him. Enjoy the show, and we hope to see you next year!

Breelyn Mehrtens (*Anne Fezziwig, Mrs. Cratchit, Londoner*)

Breelyn is so happy to be a part of this Christmas tradition again. Last year you saw her as various characters including one lugging a giant turkey around. Breelyn is an eBay Powerseller, a sculptor, and gets her exercise by running from a Lion. She would like to thank Devin, Kayleigh, Zachary, Bridget, Jason, Michelle, Mom and Dad T, Mom and Dad M, and her adorable and wildly talented husband for all of the love and support. "See you in the car!"

Charles Miericke (*Bob Cratchit, Londoner*)

Charles proudly returns to Parkland for the second annual *A Christmas Carol*. Heartfelt thanks to J.W. and Becky for casting him in such an emotional and challenging role. Break a leg!

Alison Mink (*Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe, Londoner*)

Alison is 13, in the 7th grade, and is being home-schooled. This is her fifth play and her first with Parkland.

She is excited to be participating in *A Christmas Carol* this year. She hopes to one day become a professional actress in the movie making industry.

Libby Mueller (Charlotte)

Libby Mueller is elated to return for the second annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, having had such an amazing experience playing Nelly as part of the original cast last year. Libby is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois and is currently applying to its graduate school of psychology, PhD program. She apologizes for her instrumental stylings, having never before played the pair of virginals, but nonetheless has immensely enjoyed the challenge. For Mama and Daddy, who never stopped believing in me; and for Rob, who has the best seat in the house. Merry Christmas, everyone.

Grace Orwick (Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe, Londoner)

Thank you Mom and Dad.

Joe Porter (Jacob Marley, Amos)

Joe is a professional scale model builder and is pleased to be making his Parkland debut. He first appeared onstage in 1968 as Drummer #2 in *St. George and the Dragon*. More recent work includes Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and two turns as Scrooge with Rantoul Theatre Group, along with CUTC's *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Oliver!*. Delightfully married, he and his wife Shawn are proud U of I parents to their son Jacob. Psalm 19:14.

Diane Pritchard (Mrs. Malloy, Sarah)

This is Diane's second show at Parkland. Her first was *The Phantom Tollbooth*, where she played the Dodecahedron; "a twelve sided figure with many faces." She has also been in many shows with CUTC. Love to Mark, Liz and Jeff.

Kaitlynn Shable (Jane Fezziwig, Belinda Cratchit)

Kaitlynn is 13 years old and is in 8th grade at Mahomet-Seymour Junior High. This is Kaitlynn's second time doing *A Christmas Carol*. She has also performed in Judah Christian School's production of *Stuart Little*. She is excited to be doing this again!

Thom Schnarre (Topper, Mr. Gadbury, Poulterer)

Thom is an associate professor of English at Parkland College. He has appeared as an actor on Parkland's stage in *Cabaret*, *The Laramie Project*, *Out of Order*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *1776*, *Black Coffee*, and *Wonder of the World* and directed productions of *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, *Angels in America Part I: Millenium Approaches*, *The Polar Bear Exhibit*, and *Laughing Stock*. He wishes to thank his cat, Cordelia, and J.W., Michelle, and Tim for all their warm fuzziness. Christmas rocks dude!

Angela Schneider (Mrs. Fezziwig, Londoner, Co Director of Pre-Performance Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe)

Angela has been in love with the theatre since 1956 when she was cast in her first high school play back in Buffalo, New York. She went on to earn degrees in Speech and Drama Education and shared her love with thousands of students whom she taught and directed during a 32-year teaching career. Recently retired from Franklin Middle School where she taught Performing Arts and Drama, Angela is now able to join her husband Nick (whom she met on the stage, by the way), in co-producing this wonderful production of *A Christmas Carol*. Angela is happy to share the stage with former student, Mollie Vigardt. She's also proud of her granddaughter who recently starred in her high school play in Danville, IN, and the four younger grandchildren who show a flair for all things theatrical. The Schneider family will continue the tradition of supporting the performing arts. What a wonderful legacy!

Nick Schneider (Ebenezer Scrooge)

Nick has performed as an actor and musician most of his life having studied theatre at the University of Detroit and in New York. Professional credits include musicals *The Music Man*, *Take Me Along*, and *Once Upon a Mattress* while Shaw's *St. Joan*, *The Little Foxes* and *School for Scandal* are a few of the dramas. Locally, Nick has appeared in productions by ARTCO, CUTC, Summer Studio Theatre Company and Parkland. He has directed and produced national television and radio commercials for Budweiser, Chevrolet, and Marathon Oil among others, written and directed television drama, *No Tears for Christmas* (NBC), and the documentary *Vincent: a Portrait of Vincent Van Gogh* (PBS). At Parkland Nick has recently been seen in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Spoon River Anthology*, *Visiting Hour*, *Black Coffee* and *Urinetown, the Musical*. A life accomplished with the support and sacrifice of his family: wife Angela, sons Nick, Philip, Jeffery and daughter Joelle, and Mom and Dad, forever now with the Spirits of Christmas. May your heart laugh as you savor the joys of this holiday time and remember to keep Christmas well.

Eric Seward (Mr. Kirchner, Reveler #3, Londoner)

Eric is a first-timer on the Parkland stage. Before starting a family and a career, Eric was Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Tony in a college presentation of *West Side Story*, and chorus in *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Anything Goes* at the Springfield Theatre Guild many years ago. Have a blessed Christmas to you and yours.

Joy Seward (Mrs. Dilber, Londoner)

Joy grew up loving the fine arts and music was always in her home. As a thespian in high school she enjoyed a variety of roles in plays and musicals. Most recently, Joy was seen on the Mahomet Community Theatre stage as the mystery writer, Jessica Olive, in *Done to Death* and the Irish housekeeper Lottie Malloy in *The Murder Room*. She thanks her hubby, Eric, for jumping in and sharing

this first time on the Parkland stage! Joy loves the Christmas season—celebrating with family and friends the Gift that changes lives forever. “’Tis the truest word that ever was spoke!”

Sarah VanWingerden (*Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe, Londoner*)

Sarah is a 7th grader at Mahomet-Seymour Junior High. She enjoys playing soccer and singing in her free time. This is Sarah's first play at Parkland.

Mollie Vigardt* (*Beatrice, Carolyn, Elizabeth*)

Mollie is excited to be back performing on the Parkland stage. The last time she was seen on stage here was six years ago, but she's been behind the scenes for the past two shows. Mollie would like to thank her Mom for all her support, and Maddie, Corbin, Zach, and Angela for keeping her sane.

Molly Walker (*Melinda Cratchit*)

Molly is extremely excited to be in her first community theatre production. She has been a random boarding school student in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Tweedle Dee in her middle school's production of *Alice in Wonderland*. She would like to thank Christine Taber for bearing with all her talking and random complaints about the show, and of course her parents for taking time to drive her to countless rehearsals.

Nicole Wheatley (*Want, Londoner*)

Nicole is excited to be in her first production at Parkland. She appeared in her local school play last year, *Cinderella Kids*. Nicole would like to thank the directors for giving her this opportunity to perform and to the rest of the cast who have shown her the way.

Staff Biographies

Cailyn Arnot* (*Assistant Stage Manager*)

After working on *The Murder Room*, Cailyn is returning to what she loves most . . . stage management, or at least assisting the wonderful Michelle. Last year's production of *A Christmas Carol* had Cailyn doing hair, makeup, and pushing open the trap door. This year she'll finally be able to see the whole show! Thanks to Tim and Jesse for being incredible housemates; BZ, Irish and Angie for putting up with the anxiety and stress that is her life; last, but not least, to Kermit for keeping the Number 3 importance going: her laughter.

Lee M. Boyer (*Scenic Designer*)

Lee Boyer has over 20 years experience as a scenic artist and designer. As a member of United Scenic Artists Local USA-829, Lee has painted scenery and exhibits for the motion picture *Hoax*, Nickelodeon's *The Naked Brother's Band*, Li'l Kim's video *Lighters Up*, the Radio City Tour, and the Detroit Auto Show. Lee's scene design credits

include the The HOW magazine show, Sugar Creek Symphony & Song Festival, Champaign-Urbana Ballet, The Whitewater Opera Company, Great Western Music Festival, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois, and Parkland College.

Becky Brown (*Assistant Director*)

Becky Brown is a junior theatre studies student at the University of Illinois. Over the last year she has assistant directed at Krannert for the opera department and Summer Studio Theatre. Becky is excited to be back working on *A Christmas Carol*. Thanks to everyone!

René Chadwick (*Hair and Make-Up Designer*)

René joined the University of Illinois Theatre faculty in the fall of 2004 to teach and design in makeup and costumes. She is also makeup and hair master for Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. René has an MFA in theatre costume design from UIUC. She has designed and taught makeup and costumes in both professional and academic venues, including master classes in Riga, Latvia while on tour with a Middle Tennessee State University student theatre group.

Cheri Coons (*Lyrics- Tomorrow's Christmas Day*)

Cheri has co-written more than a dozen musicals which have received professional productions, including *At Wit's End* (Carbonell Award for Best New Work), *River's End* (ASCAP Foundation Harold Arlen Musical Theatre Award, Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Awards for Best Original Script and Best Original Score), *Sylvia's Real Good Advice* (Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Work), *Female Problems* (After Dark Award for Best Music and Lyrics), and *Phantom of the Country Opera*, published by Music Theater International. Her work has appeared on the stages of Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Florida Stage, Marin Theatre Company, Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre, Northlight Theatre, and Pegasus Theatre.

David G. Dillman (*Technical Director*)

David is well into his ninth year at the famed Parkland College Theatre. In that time he has built numerous shows, 70 to be exact. *A Christmas Carol* will be his 71st here at Parkland (or should I say since it is already built and we are just bringing it out of storage, 70-1/2). So he would like to thank his greatest friends and colleagues Randi, Tim, Dallas, and Bernard, for keeping the faith. And of course, to his best friend and spouse, a thank you for the best Christmas present: Her! He would just like to remind everyone that this is the season of cheer and to have a very Merry Christmas. SKOL

Jennifer Goran (*Co-director of Pre Performance Dickens Irregulars Performance Troupe*)

Jennifer has been working as a children's theatre specialist for over 33 years. As a professional actress, director, a free-lancer in Central Illinois schools, a visiting professor at the University of Illinois, and now as the drama and

speech teacher at Judah Christian School, she has always been an advocate for the educational and entertainment value of children's theatre. In 1996, she received the Outstanding Contribution Award in Children's Theatre from the Illinois Theatre Association.

Thomas V. Korder (Technical Production Supervisor and Design Coordinator)

Tom hails from Minnesota and has completed degrees at Southern Methodist University and University of Minnesota. He has been the technical director at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and assistant professor in the University of Illinois Department of Theatre since 1989, and until 2000 chaired the Department of Theatre Graduate Technology Curriculum. Tom has worked for a variety of performing arts organizations, including Fort Worth Ballet, TW Designs (a commercial production company), and Shakespeare Festival of Dallas. Since beginning his academic career in 1984, Tom has taught lighting and technology at universities in Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Illinois. He teaches graduate coursework in Fluid Power, Motors and Motor Control, Health & Safety, and Technical Management. He has been an investigator on research projects in "Application of Industrial Motion Control Systems to Moving Theatrical Scenery" and the "Application of Industrial Fluid Power Systems to Theatrical Scenery." He is active with the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, notably he served for three years as commissioner for the technical production commission and as vice commissioner / exhibits project manager for the US entry into the 2007 Prague Quadrennial. He was also selected as the 2006 USITT Midwest Section Founder's Award winner.

J.W. Morrisette (Director)

J.W. is the assistant program coordinator of the University of Illinois' INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre. He received his BFA in acting from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio. While attending Otterbein, he worked for Stuart Howard and Associates Casting in New York interning as a casting assistant for many Broadway shows including *Grease*, *Chicago*, and *Death Defying Acts*, and countless commercial projects. Upon graduation, he moved to Chicago to tour with a children's theatre for one year before beginning his MFA in acting at the University of Illinois. He completed his MFA in 1999 and promptly remained in school to receive his MA in theatre history. He is ecstatic to be directing again at Parkland College where he has been teaching acting and introduction to theatre for nine years. A special thanks to all the cast and crew, and his family: Ann Marie, Miranda and Olivia — Dad will be home again soon!

Michelle Mills (Stage Manager)

Thank you to Parkland College and Bah Humbug Productions for the chance to work on such a wonderful production.

Sean Murphy (Lighting Designer)

Sean has been involved with the Parkland College Theatre since *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, in 2000 — most recently as lighting designer for last season's production of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. He joined the Nikolais Dance Theatre in 1986 as production manager and lighting director. Since that time he has toured with dance companies, including the Joffrey Ballet, the Trisha Brown Dance Company, Rudolf Nureyev, Ekaterina Maximova & Vladimir Vasiliev, and the Paris Opera Ballet Ensemble. He has worked with Savion Glover and his company, Not Your Ordinary Tappers, in New York City. Sean has formed a local lighting consultancy firm, SeanMurphyLIGHTS, Inc., with the goal of increasing appreciation through illumination. Sean and his wife Sara Hook live in Champaign with their daughters Melanie and Martha and two dogs, Ralph and Alice.

Stephanie Polhemus (Prop Coordinator)

Stephanie is a second-year Scene Design MFA at the University of Illinois. At U of I she has done props for *Henry IV: Part 1*, *Studio Dance*, *Armide*, and *Romeo et Juliette*. She was the prop master this summer at Georgia Shakespeare where she did props for *As You Like It*, *Merchant of Venice*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, and *Tom Thumb the Great*. You can see her next scenic design in *Three Sisters* at the U of I this spring. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support!

Jodi L. Prosser (Costume Coordinator)

This is Jodi's first time costuming for Parkland, and she'd like to thank Nick and Angela for this opportunity. She has been a costumer for stage and film locally for many years. This past summer she costumed *The Music Man* for the Muni in Springfield. She is the drama director for The High School of Saint Thomas More and is also the director of music ministry at Our Lady of the Lake in Mahomet. Theatre is her passion, and she has been involved both onstage and behind the scenes for 34 years. She is grateful to her four wonderful children, who are supportive of her theatrical endeavors, as well as many other understanding friends and family members who put up with her nutty schedule. Thanks must also be given to her niece, Elaine, who has helped to keep her head screwed on straight during the past few weeks, and to her adopted daughter, Angela, who gladly accepted the offer to be a part of the costuming crew. Much love to both of you! You are fabulous and fantastic! (I don't know which one is which — you can duke it out.)

Seamus Reilly (Lyrics- *Christmastide*, *Lost Child*, *Tell Me What I'm Thinking*)

Seamus is the vice president for Institutional Advancement at Parkland College. He delighted to work with Tim Schirmer and the wonderful staff and cast of *A Christmas Carol*. He has appeared in productions in Ireland and Illinois, most recently at Parkland College in *Five Kinds*

of Silence. He also collaborated as lyricist with composer Zack Browning on *Banjaxed*.

Tim Schirmer (Composer/Musical Director)

Tim Schirmer has worked as a composer/musical director for the past 30 years. As a composer his works have received performances on a regional and national level including the award-winning PBS film documentary *The Greatest Lakes: Portrait of a Prairie Capitol* at the Old State Capitol in Springfield; four musicals: *The Book of Dreams*, *Futures*, *Five Golden Rings*, *Labors of Love*; and more than 20 scores for the Tony-nominated American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Most recently he composed the score for *A Christmas Carol* and *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Tim has been musical director at Parkland for *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, *Bat Boy the Musical*, *Assassins*, *1776*, *Cabaret*, *Nunsense*, *Forever Plaid*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Company*, *Sweeney Todd*, and others. Tim is the program director for music at Parkland College.

Barbara T. Schoenoff (Costume Designer)

Barbara Schoenoff received her MFA from Northwestern and has been designing costumes for many years. She has designed over 100 plays including *Sunday In The Park With George*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, and *1776* at Parkland College. She is delighted to be a part of this production.

Jon Schoenoff (Sound Designer)

Jon Schoenoff serves as audio director of Krannert Center and head of the graduate sound design program for the U of I Department of Theatre. In addition to his creative, administrative, and teaching duties, he is active internationally as a classical music recording and editing engineer for commercial CD releases. His 150+ recording credits include work for Zephyr, Albany, Arabesque, New World, RCA, Catalyst, Boston Records, and Channel Crossings labels, among others.

Nicholas R. Schneider (Flying Effects Coordinator)

Nick (or NR as some call him to distinguish him from his dad) is a craftsman of many trades. He spends most of his days and many of his nights working as the lead rigger and flyman and house carpenter for the University of Illinois Assembly Hall. Nick has worked in Properties shop at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and as technical director for the U of I College of Music Opera Department. His interest in theatre began in high school where he worked backstage on productions directed by his mother, Angela, and he has made good use of his experience as a tradesman in his career as a stagehand. Nick has designed and built sets for the Urbana Park District and CUTC. He enjoys sailing and working at the Star H Farm in Fisher when he has time. Nick is a member of the North American Association of Flying Effects Directors and the

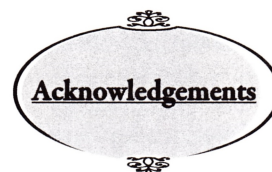
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 482. Thanks to Jena for keeping him in line.

Dallas Street (Staging Designer)

Dallas has directed Parkland Theatre's productions of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, *Urinetown the Musical*, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, *Story Theatre*, *Forever Plaid*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Lucky Stiff*, and *Merrily We Roll Along* and has supplied choreography for *Cabaret* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. He has appeared on the Parkland stage in *The Pillowman*, *Black Coffee*, *Angels in America*, *Assassins*, *The Laramie Project*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Forever Plaid*, *Company*, and *Sweeney Todd*. He has also appeared in the Summer Studio Theatre Company's productions of *Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight*, *Pasta*, *Bus Stop*, *The Matchmaker*, *Einstein and the Polar Bear*, *My 3 Angels*, and *Broadway*. He is the theatre marketing coordinator for the Parkland Theatre. Happy Holidays!

Bernard Wolff (Facility Technical Director)

Bernard Wolff has an MFA in theatre design from the University of Nebraska. He has worked at the Guthrie Theatre, the Muny Opera in St. Louis, and various universities in the Midwest. Bernard serves as the facility technical director for the Parkland Theatre.



Acknowledgements

Dallas & Co
Franklin Middle School
SeanMurphyLIGHTS, Inc.
Nicole Faurant
Judah Christian School
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts
KCPA Hair/Makeup Studio
Tom Mitchell
Pogo Studios
Julie Rundell
Les Schulte
The High School of St. Thomas More
Star H Farm Company
University of Illinois, Department of Theatre
Gretchen Wieshuber Studio 2D
William Wilder, Parkland College Physical Plant
Bernard Wolff
Sara Hook
Intelligent Lighting Creations, Arlington Heights, IL
James Washburn
Anna McCormick
Laura Arwine

Production Staff

Staging Designer	Dallas Street
Assistant Director	Becky Brown
Stage Manager	Michelle Mills
Assistant Stage Manager. . . .	Cailyn Arnot*
Costume Coordinator	Jodi L. Prosser
Properties Coordinator	Stephanie Polhemus
Special Effects Coordinator . .	Matthew P. Eberle*
Flying Effects Coordinator . . .	Nicholas R. Schneider
Master Electrician	Matthew P. Eberle*
Assistant Master Electrician . .	Elaine Richardson
Light Board Operator	Amy Randall
Sound Board Operator	Isaac Hayes
Spot Light Operators.	Andy Hart Ruben Ivy*
Deck Boss/Fly operator.	Tim Adams*
Scenic and Lighting Crew . . .	Tim Adams* Angela Arwine Cailyn Arnot* Taylor Babb* Matthew P. Eberle* Mark Fuelle* Seth Gelke Kristin Hadler* Ruben Ivy* Laura Lindemann Casey Long* Zachary K. Lutz* Rachel McGrath* Amy Randall Tiffany VanGorden Mollie Wigardt*
Costume Supervisor	Elaine Richardson
Costume/Makeup/ Hair Run Crew	Angela Arwine* Rachel McGrath*
Run Crew	Taylor Babb* Mark Fuelle*
Ticket Office Manager	Dallas Street
House Managers	Marla Crook Tom Crook Jill Rannebarger



Musical Comedy!

The Flight of the Lawnchair Man

February 18, 20, 21, 27, 28 at 8pm
March 5, 6, 7 at 8pm
March 1 at 3pm

Book by Peter Ullian
Music and Lyrics by Robert Lindsey-Nassif
Director: Randi Collins Hard
Musical Director: Tim Schirmer

Meet Jerry Gorman, who just got promoted to Snack Bar Manager at Wal-Mart. But Jerry is depressed. Deep inside, Jerry knows he was born to achieve something extraordinary. He wants to fly! Jerry hits on a highly unorthodox method of getting airborne. With a little help from a lawnmower and 400 helium-filled balloons, he takes to the friendly skies!

American Classic!

The Miracle Worker

April 8, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 at 8pm
April 19 at 3pm

By William Gibson
Director: Michelle Mills

This stirring dramatization of the story of Helen Keller is one of the most successful and warmly admired plays of the modern stage. Blind and mute, nobody knows what Helen's fate might have been had she not come under the tutelage of Annie Sullivan who realizes that there is a mind waiting to be rescued from that dark, tortured silence.

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Randi Jennifer Collins Hard
Technical Director
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Facility Technical Director
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Tickets

All seats for theatre events are available by reservation. Reservations may be made by calling 217/351-2528 or sending e-mail to theatre@parkland.edu. The ticket office is open two hours before every performance. Discount prices are available to students, school children, senior citizens, and organized groups of 15 or more. For information on group sales please call 217/373-3874.

Rentals

The theatre can be rented for conferences, lectures, musical events, dance concerts, and theatrical productions. Rental of the space can be daily or weekly. In addition, props, costumes, and stock scenery are available for rent. Please call 217/353-2341 for more information.

Volunteers

Parkland College is your community college theatre. We would like to meet you and welcome your help backstage on our productions. Opportunities exist for building and painting scenery, hanging lights, make-up and hair, sewing and costuming, making props, and ushering. No experience is necessary. We also encourage high school students interested in the arts to experience the process firsthand. Please call 217/351-2531 for more information.

Parking

Parking lots C4 and M1 are adjacent to the theatre. Allow extra time for parking on the Wednesday and Thursday evening performances while college classes are in session.

House Policies

- All tickets are for general admission, non-reserved seating with the exception of groups of 15 or more who, with advance purchase of tickets, may have a block of seats reserved.
- Taking photographs or using recording devices during the performance is strictly prohibited. In consideration of our seated patrons and performers, latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house manager.
- Please, no eating, drinking, or smoking in the theatre. Cough drops are available from the ushers as a courtesy to our patrons.
- Please turn off all cellular telephones and pagers before the performance begins.

Contributions

Tax deductible monetary gifts can be made through the Parkland College Foundation in support of the theatre. Your gift can be for general support or you may specify that it be used to support individual awards. The Randall Millas Theatre Scholarship Fund provides tuition, books, and fees for one year to a sophomore theatre major. The Theatre Production Award Fund provides a cash award for a student who excels in technical theatre production. The Susan and Derek Kraybill Musical Theatre Award provides a cash award for a music student with exceptional participation in musical theater productions. Please call 217/351-2529 for more information.

Donation of clothing, furniture, hats, jewelry, shoes, and other accessories are appreciated for use in our theatre productions and may be arranged by calling 217/351-2531.

Comments

Your opinions are very important to us! If you have a compliment, criticism, or suggestion, please call us at 217/351-2529 or write to Parkland College Theatre, 2400 West Bradley Avenue, Champaign, IL 61821-1899.

Parkland College Theatre



Special Event!

Saturday, January 24, 2009
7 p.m.



Please join us!

Dessert Bar

Sweet Indulgences • The Party Girls • Cakes on Walnut • More



Staged reading of *Memorial Day* by Richard Morris

With surprise, dark humor, and a cutting edge, Memorial Day presents a little different view of small-town women, small-town relationships, and small-town life. Expect the unexpected with this brilliant new play.

Directed by Joi Hoffsommer and performed by local actors.

In the performance of a "staged reading," actors hold scripts, create characters, and enact some scenes with a narrator establishing time and place. (It's fun! You will be the first audience for this new play!)

Some language ... appropriate for mature teens and older.

Silent Auction

Featuring theatre memorabilia and other goodies from local businesses.

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See costumes from past Parkland Theatre shows up close! Feel them and learn the tricks of the trade.

Conversation with the playwright

Post-performance conversation with the playwright, director and cast.

Live Music by Parkland's guitar ensemble

\$25/person • \$40/couple

All proceeds go to the general operating funds of Parkland Theatre

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